

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment of 9 October 2009 has been entered. Claims 5 and 21-34 have been amended and claim 35 is previously presented (not a new claim as identified). New claims 36 and 37 have been introduced. Claims 5 and 21-37 are pending in this application with claims 5 and 36 being independent claims.

Election/Restrictions

2. Newly submitted claims 36 and 37 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: The new claims are directed to a method of operating a falling film plasma reactor with the recited step of introducing a first reagent into an annular space following the recited steps of flowing and creating which is distinct from previous claim 5 directed to a similar method however with the recited step of flowing a particulate or particulate mixture into the reactor.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 36 and 37 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Examiner's Amendment

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Thomas Moore on 26 February 2010.

4. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 1, line 3 following line 1 of the Title, after "October 31, 2000,", insert --now U.S. Pat. No. 6,635,228,--.

In the Claims:

Claim 5, line 2, replace "over a surface of a first electrode" with --directly over a surface of a first conductive electrode--.

Cancel claims 36 and 37.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 5 and 21-35 are allowed because of the recent recitation "flowing a liquid dielectric directly over a surface of a conductive first electrode" in independent claim 5 to clearly distinguish

from the teachings from Suzuki et al. (US 5,084,078) with the flowing of a liquid dielectric over a surface of an electrode where the electrode may be simply a combination of an insulative pipe and a metal pipe (c. 4, l. 18-20).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kishor Mayekar whose telephone number is (571) 272-1339. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-

217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kishor Mayekar/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795